

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A clamp mechanism for clamping and unclamping an information recording medium to be loaded on a loading plane of a turntable, the clamp mechanism comprising:

a plurality of holders each holding the information recording medium loaded on the loading plane of the turntable; and

a driving device driving the holders in both of a holding direction along which the information recording medium is held on the turntable and an un-holding direction along which the information recording medium is released from ~~being held~~ the turntable;

wherein, when the driving device drives the plurality of holders in the holding direction:

at least one of the plurality of holders is configured to press, in a predetermined direction parallel to the loading plane, the information recording medium loaded on the turntable, and

another one of the plurality of holders is configured not to press the information recording medium in any other direction, which is parallel to the loading plane and which is substantially different than the predetermined direction.

2. (currently amended): The clamp mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the driving device is configured to drive the plurality of holders ~~are configured so as~~ to simultaneously hold and press the information recording medium when the driving device is ~~driven~~ drives all the holders in the holding direction.

3. (currently amended): The clamp mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the driving device comprises a movable member slidable in a direction perpendicular to the loading plane of the turntable, and

a pressing member pressing the plurality of holders so as to release the information recording member from ~~being held~~ the turntable, when the movable member is slid in the direction perpendicular to the loading plane so as to be separated from the loading plane.

4. (currently amended): An information reproducing ~~mechanism~~ apparatus comprising:

a turntable having a loading plane on which an information recording medium is allowed to be loaded; and

a clamp mechanism for clamping and unclamping the information recording medium loaded on the loading plane of the turntable, the clamp mechanism comprising:

a plurality of holders each holding the information recording medium on the turntable;
and

a driving device driving the holders in both of a holding direction along which the information recording medium is held on the turntable and an un-holding direction along which the information recording medium is released from ~~being held~~ the turntable;

wherein, when the driving device drives the plurality of holders in the holding direction:

at least one of the plurality of holders is configured to press, in a predetermined direction parallel to the loading plane, the information recording medium loaded on the turntable, and

another one of the plurality of holders is configured not to press the information recording medium in any other direction, which is parallel to the loading plane and which is substantially different than the predetermined direction.

5. (currently amended): The information reproducing ~~mechanism~~ apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the driving device is configured to drive the plurality of holders ~~are configured so as~~ to simultaneously hold and press the information recording medium when the driving device ~~is driven~~ drives all the holders in the holding direction.

6. (currently amended): The information reproducing ~~mechanism~~ apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the driving device comprises a movable member slidable in a direction perpendicular to the loading plane of the turntable, and

a pressing member pressing the plurality of holders so as to release the information recording member from ~~being held~~ the turntable, when the movable member is slid in the direction perpendicular to the loading plane so as to be separated from the loading plane.

7. (new): The clamp mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the information recording medium is shaped into a toric disk having an inner circumference,

wherein the plurality of holders are located along the inner circumference of the information recording medium when the information recording member is loaded on the turntable,

wherein the plurality of holders comprise a first type of holder and a second type of holder that is different than the first type of holder, and

wherein the at least one holder is the second type of holder.

8. (new): The clamp mechanism according to claim 7, wherein the plurality of holders comprise two holders, which are the first type of holder and two holders, which are the second type of holder.

9. (new): The clamp mechanism according to claim 8, wherein a circumferential center of the two holders of the second type and the two holders of the first type are located at equal angular intervals along the inner circumference of the information recording medium.

10. (new): The clamp mechanism according to claim 9, wherein each of the two holders of the second type has a slope end portion,

wherein the slope end portion pushes an upper edge of the information recording medium, which is loaded on the turntable, obliquely and outwardly when the driving device drives all the holders in the holding direction, and

wherein the slope end portion of each of the two holders of the second type pushes the information recording medium obliquely and outwardly in the predetermined direction.

11. (new): The clamp mechanism according to claim 10, wherein the two holders of the second type respectively comprise two claw portions that have a common base portion, wherein each of the two claw portions comprises the slope end portion, and wherein the common base portion is driven by the driving device.

12. (new): The clamp mechanism according to claim 11, wherein the claw portions of the two holders of the second type are separated from each other and the pushing force created by each of the two holders of the second type are directed along the predetermined direction and shifted from a center of the information recording medium.

13. (new): A clamp mechanism, comprising:
a plurality of holders,
wherein the plurality of holders hold an information recording medium on a loading plane of turntable when the plurality of holders are driven to a holding position,
wherein the plurality of holders enable the information recording medium to be released from the turntable when the plurality of holders are driven to an unholding position, and

wherein, when the plurality holders are in the holding position, a sum of forces, which are exerted by all of the plurality of holders on the information recording medium and which are parallel to the loading plane, produces a non-zero resultant force, which is parallel to the loading plane and which presses the information recording medium in a predetermined direction.

14. (new): The clamp mechanism according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of holders comprise a first holder and a second holder,

wherein the forces comprise a first force and a second force,

wherein the first holder exerts the first force, which has a magnitude substantially greater than zero, on the information recording medium in the predetermined direction, and

wherein the second holder exerts the second force, which substantially equals zero in any direction parallel to the loading plane, on the information recording medium.

15. (new): The clamp mechanism according to claim 14, wherein the plurality of holders further comprise a third holder,

wherein the forces further comprise a third force, and

wherein the third holder exerts the third force, which has a magnitude substantially greater than zero, on the information recording medium in the predetermined direction.

16. (new): The clamp mechanism according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of holders comprise a first holder and a second holder,

wherein the forces comprise a first force and a second force,

wherein the first holder exerts the first force, which has a magnitude substantially greater than zero, on the information recording medium in the predetermined direction, and

wherein the second holder exerts the second force, which has a magnitude substantially greater than zero, on the information recording medium in the predetermined direction.